THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Out of 31 show cause notices issue to Thapar group of companies, adjudication proceedings have been completed in respect of three show cause notices issued to M/s. Jg. Glass Industries (P) Ltd. resulting in imposition of a penalty aggregating to Rs. 25,05,000 on M/s. Jg. Glass Industries (P) Ltd. and Rs. 1,50,000 on Shri S. S. Lall, one of the Directors of the company. The adjudication proceedings are in progress in respect of the remaining 28 show cause notices.

(b) The amount of foreign exchange to be repatriated by Thapar group of companies, will be determined in the adjudication proceedings. However, as per information available an amount of Rs. 1.64 crores approximately has been repatriated by these companies.

Repatriation of surplus foreign exchange sought by some international organisations

2557. SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some international organisations have requested Government for repatriation of surplus foreign exchange to their Headquarters;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Reserve Bank of India and other Government agencies have cleared the proposals for repatriation of surplus foreign exchange;

(c) if so, what are the reasons for not allowing these organisations to repatriate surplus amount; and

(d) what are the names of the organisations which have requested for repatriation of foreign exchange during the last two years and what is the policy of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (d) Unless types of the organisations and other details like the purpose for which remittance of foreign exchange was sought are indicated, it is not possible to furnish the required information.

Concessional bank loans for farmers and scheduled castes and scheduled tribes

2558. SHRI KAPIL VERMA:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI SHEO KUMAR MISHRA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any scheme to give loans at concessional rate of interest through banks to farmers and Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes to purchase three wheeler scooters, etc.;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have received any representation from Handicapped Association regarding low interest loans through banks to handicapped persons for purchase of Maruti cars for handicapped persons; and

(d) if so, what action has been taken in view of their dire need and if no action has been taken, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India has reported that there is no specific scheme to give loans at con-

cessional rate of interest by the banks to farmers and persons belonging to Scheduled Castes|Scheduled Tribes to purchase three wheeler scooters, etc.

(c) and (d) The Government have received a representation from the Disabled War Veterans (India) Regd., New Delhi for bank loans at zero or nominal rate of interest for purchase of cars fitted with disability equipments. This has been examined in consultation with Reserve Bank of India, who has reported that banks have been advised to grant financial assistance to the physically handicapped persons at the rate of interest at 4 per cent per annum under Differential Rate of Interest (DRI) Scheme for purchase of artificial limbs, hearing aids, wheeled chairs, etc. upto Rs. 2500|- provided this assistance is given alongwith advances for productive activities and self-employment ventures and that all other requirements under DRI Scheme are fulfilled. Banks have aso been advised to extend financial assistance to those handicapped persons, who may not be eligible for financial assistance from banks at the rate of interest of 4 per cent per annum under DRI Scheme, on similar terms and conditions with the modification that the rate of interest in such cases shall be the same at which the production credit is made available to them, subject to a maximum of 15 per cent per annum in case the rate of interest for production credit is higher. The rate of interest of 15 per cent per annum is much lower than the rate of interest charged by banks for consumption loans. Keeping in view the banks commitments to extend substantial advances to priority sector at concessional rates of interest, Reserve Bank of India has advised that it would not be possible to reduce further the rate of interest for loans to disabled war veterans.

Production of cotton

2589. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the estimated production of cotton this year and what is the target for export;

(b) whether the demand for Indian cotton is increasing abroad and what is the perspective;

(c) what is the production of synthetic textiles compared to cotton textiles in all sectors at present; and

(d) whether it is a fact that synthetic textile is harming cotton growers' interest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM): (a) The praduction of cotton during the current cotton year is estimated at 108 lakh bales. No decision regarding export of cotton has yet been taken.

(b) There is good demand for Indian cotton, in the Far East and Europe etc.

(c) The production of Cotton Textiles and Synthetic Textiles during 1987-88 is as follows:—

Cotton Textiles		Blended 100% Non-Cotton		
Cotton yarn (M. Kgs.)	Cotton Cloth (M. Mtrs)	Spun Yarn (M. Kgs.)	Synthetic Filament yarn (M. Kgs.)	Cloth (M. Mrs.)
1321	9400	234	146	3592

(d) No, Sir.